

NOTES

A NEW *SYNGONANTHUS* (ERIOCAULACEAE) FROM SOUTHERN MEXICO

While preparing a treatment of the Eriocaulaceae for "Flora Mesoamericana," I discovered two recent collections of a distinctive species of *Syngonanthus* from the State of Chiapas in southern Mexico here described as *S. davidsei* Huft. This is only the second species of the genus to be found in Mexico. *Syngonanthus caulescens* has been collected in bogs near Minatitlán, Veracruz (2 Feb. 1892, *Smith 354*, MO), and is also known from Costa Rica and northern South America. The only other species of this largely South American genus that are known from continental North America are *S. flavidulus* (Michx.) Ruhl. of the southeastern United States, *S. pittieri* from Panama, and four poorly-known species endemic to Belize.

***Syngonanthus davidsei* Huft, sp. nov.** TYPE: Mexico. Chiapas: Municipio of Ixtapa, grassy flats with *Quercus*, *Acacia*, and *Byrsonima* near Ixtapa, 915 m, 1 Nov. 1981, *Breedlove & Davidse 54339* (holotype, CAS!; F neg. no. 59185; isotypes, to be distributed to ENCB, MEXU, MO, not seen).

Herbae parvae perennes, acaulescentes. Folia lineari-lanceolata, modice strigosa, apice acuminata. Pedunculi aliquot, terminales, glanduloso-pilosi. Capitula solitaria, aureo-brunnea; bracteae involucales late ovatae, naviculares, aureo-brunneae, glabrae, apice obtusae vel parum acutae; bracteolae receptaculares nullae. Flores stipitati, stipitibus basi longiciliatis, ceterum glabri; sepala ♂ late obovato-falcata, aureo-brunnea; sepala ♀ elliptico-oblonga, basi alba, apice aureo-brunnea; petala ♀ anguste oblonga, sepalis parum breviora, alba, basi libera, versus apicem conniventia vel leviter connata.

Small perennial herb, monoecious, acaulescent. Leaves tufted, spreading or recurved, often flat on the ground, linear-lanceolate, 1–1.5 cm long, 0.8–1.2 mm wide, moderately strigose, the apex acuminate. Peduncles several, terminal, 6–17 cm long, slender, glandular-pilose, the hairs spreading; sheath 12–20 mm long, appressed, densely glandular-pilose, the apex long-acuminate. Heads solitary, hemispherical, golden brown, glabrous, 2.5–5 mm diam.; involucre bracts broadly ovate, navicular, 1.8–2 mm long, 0.8–1 mm wide, golden brown, glabrous, the apex ob-

tuse to acute: receptacle flat, glabrous; receptacular bracts lacking. Staminate florets stipitate, the stipe 0.3–0.5 mm long, long-ciliate at base; sepals 3, free, broadly obovate-falcate, navicular, ca. 1 mm long, ca. 0.5 mm wide, glabrous, golden brown, the apex obtuse to acute; petals connate into a narrow, glabrous, stramineous tube, the apex with 3 short lobes; stamens 3, the anthers white. Pistillate florets stipitate, the stipe ca. 0.5 mm long, long-ciliate at base; sepals 3, free, elliptic-oblong, 1.3–1.5 mm long, ca. 0.4 mm wide, glabrous, white toward base, golden brown toward apex, the apex acute; petals 3, narrowly oblong, slightly shorter than the sepals, glabrous, white, connivent or loosely connate near the apex; ovary 3-locular, glabrous; styles 3, 0.8–1 mm long, united ca. two-thirds their length; seeds not seen.

Additional specimen examined. MEXICO. CHIAPAS: Municipio of La Trinitaria, 10 km E of La Trinitaria on road to Lagos de Montebello National Park, sandy flats with *Pinus* and *Quercus*, 1,555 m, 7 Nov. 1981, *Breedlove & Davidse 54973* (CAS).

This species is named in honor of Dr. Gerrit Davidse, who was instrumental in establishing the "Flora Mesoamericana" project.

Syngonanthus davidsei is very similar to the four species endemic to Belize. Indeed, with the exception of *S. caulescens*, the Mesoamerican species are nearly identical in aspect and differ chiefly in the pubescence of the peduncle and in minor characters of the involucre bracts and sepals. Because of the great rarity of these six species (they are known from a total of only 12 collections), a proper assessment of the taxonomic value of their characters is premature at this time. In fact, since three of the Belize endemics (*S. hondurensis*, *S. lundellianus*, and *S. oniellii*) are known only from collections made by Hugh O'Niell in August and September 1936 within a few miles of Boomtown, it is tempting to consider these as belonging to a single, somewhat variable, species. It is therefore with some hesitation that I venture to describe a new species in this group. However, *S. davidsei* seems distinctive on the basis of its broadly ovate, blunt involucre bracts and its broadly ovate-falcate

staminate sepals, which are unlike those of any of the other Mesoamerican species.

Further collections of *Syngonanthus* from Mesoamerica are much to be desired in order to arrive at a proper taxonomic understanding of these species. For the time being, given the pau-

city of information available, recognition of these six species seems unavoidable.

Syngonanthus davidsei may be separated from its Mesoamerican congeners by means of the following key:

- 1a. Stems elongate; leaves arranged along stem (Veracruz, Costa Rica) *S. caulescens* (Poir.) Ruhl.
- 1b. Stems very short, the plants essentially acaulescent; leaves tufted.
 - 2a. Peduncles glabrous, or nearly so.
 - 3a. Pistillate sepals glabrous; staminate corolla tube with petals free only at apex (Panama) *S. pittieri* Mold.
 - 3b. Pistillate sepals long-ciliate on the margins; staminate petals connate at middle, free at base and at apex (Belize) *S. oniellii* Mold.
 - 2b. Peduncles conspicuously pubescent.
 - 4a. Involucral bracts hyaline, colorless, the head white (Belize) *S. bartlettii* Mold.
 - 4b. Involucral bracts golden brown or olivaceous.
 - 5a. Involucral bracts broadly ovate, obtuse to acute at apex; staminate sepals broadly obovate-falcate, obtuse to acute at apex, golden brown (Chiapas) *S. davidsei* Huft
 - 5b. Involucral bracts lanceolate to narrowly elliptic or oblong, acute to acuminate at apex; staminate sepals elliptic, acuminate at apex (Belize).
 - 6a. Pubescence of peduncles strongly appressed, only a few spreading, glanduliferous hairs present *S. hondurensis* Mold.
 - 6b. Pubescence of peduncles densely spreading glandular-pilose *S. lundellianus* Mold.

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